

FAMILY HISTORY

HISTORY OF WILLIAM GILES (1797) WITTEN BY GRANDSON, JOHN CROOK

Grandfather William Giles was born January first, 1797, at Gunnerson, near Lowdham in Nottinghamshire, England. He married Sarah Huskinson of East Bridgford about 1820. He seemed to have learned the brick making business, as the family followed that occupation while they remained in England, even the girls helped in the brick yard some of the time. Little is known of their life until 1833. When Uncle Thomas, in his writings says they moved from Calverton to Strelley on the 11th of May 1833. They lived there for six and one half years and probably to better their conditions, moved to Broxholme, Lincolnshire, England, on the 6th of June 1840, where they lived until 1844 (February) when they moved to the city of Lincoln.

Uncle Thomas (Thomas Huskinson Giles) and brother George were married while there, and they became acquainted with the Goodwin family who first told them of the restored gospel. They, like many others, seem to have been prepared for the gospel when they first heard it.

Uncle Thomas Giles gives us most of the information concerning the Giles family and from his writings we quote the following: "I united myself with the General Baptist Society in November 1846. I continued in this until I united myself with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the fall of 1849 my wife's sister (Sarah Goodwin) came to Lincoln and told us about the Latter-day Saints, the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, etc. We thought it very strange but after reading the books she left with us which were the Book of Mormon, the Book of Covenants and the Voice of Warning by Parley P. Pratt, we began to think there was something in the doctrine of the Church."

"December 22nd, 1849, myself and wife and my mother went to Hull on a visit to my wife's sister (Goodwins) where we had an opportunity to learn more concerning this strange doctrine. Brother and sister Goodwin

Beecroft preach, after which we became pretty well satisfied of the truth.

Mother, my wife and myself were baptized in the afternoon of 1849 Sunday by Elder Henry Beecroft. We left Hull on the 27th to return home."

Again in August 1850 he writes, "Elder Joseph E. Taylor came to Lincoln to try to preach the gospel. He succeeded pretty well although he had strong opposition. He had a good many discussions with the New Testament Disciples and the Wesleyan Methodists. The principal opponent was Mr. Luxford. Quite a number were baptized and we had a good time for a few weeks."

William "Father was baptized September 2nd by Joseph E. Taylor and brother John on November 4th. (From note in margin of the book) the rest of the family were baptized between then and January 1854. They seem to have begun, as is usually the case, to prepare for emigration by sending money to the office at Liverpool.

On the 22nd of February 1854 they received word from S. W. Richards to be ready to leave Liverpool about the 10th of March; but on the 2nd of the month they received word to be there within twenty four hours.

We have to imagine the bustling and rustling to and fro to prepare for such a journey. Uncle Thomas gave some of the incidents. They all got to Liverpool in good time except the parents. We will quote his account of the sailing:

"Arrived in Liverpool about 6 o'clock P.M. Some of us stayed at the station while some of us went to the office of S. W. Richards and paid our passage money. We paid father's and mother's also, with the understanding that if they were not in Liverpool before the ship

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or we would like to do the best we could under the circumstances. We then went back to the railway station, engaged a man with a horse and cart to take our baggage down to the ship. She lay on Buskinson's docks. It was the last docks out of Liverpool. We got our baggage on board about sunset. We slept on board March 4th.

"Saturday March 5th--In the morning some of the family went into town to procure things for the voyage and to the office of S. W. Richards to see if father and mother had arrived. About an hour after they had gone it was said that no baggage would be taken aboard after 12 o'clock as the ship would move out soon after that time. So John and myself went on shore to procure flour and potatoes. When we got these things our people had not returned. It was then said that the ship would be off directly. So I went to hasten them up. The captain was then on board and said he would not wait if half of the passengers were on shore; and I found him to be a man of word in that respect.

"I do not think half the passengers that came across with us were on board when the ship left its moorings in the docks, but they got aboard as the ship passed along the docks, except father and mother. A very beautiful sight it was to see the ships and steam packets passing. Also the view of the town. It was a nice still and sunshiny afternoon, which we would have enjoyed much if father and mother had been there. Yet all tried to carry the best side out and appear cheerful.

"About sunset we beheld a boat making for the ship that we were on and to our joy father and mother were in it, which set us all right." He states that about 12 o'clock they drew anchor in a fine breeze. A steamer took us a few miles down the river. It

would have taken us farther if necessary. The sea voyage from

Liverpool to New Orleans was made in twenty days on the sailing vessel "Old England". They arrived in the latter place on the 25th of April.

They took passage on the steam packet, "St. Nicholas" on the 28th for St. Louis, where they arrived on the 6th of May. Uncle Thomas writes of some of their experiences there as follows: "Saturday May 6th, 1854 at about eight o'clock A.M. we arrived at quarantine at St. Louis.

The doctor came on board, he passed all the hands as being all right in good health, but we were soon to find out that there were more on board than the St. Louis Council allowed, therefore, the doctor and captain went, or pretended to go to St. Louis to see whether they would allow him to enter with us.

"We found about 11 or 12 o'clock that the English emigrants were to be quarantined and we found out that it was not the English in particular but the Mormons that had to stop. So they set the sailors to move our baggage off the packet and put it on board another packet named "Hannibell" and we would not be allowed to pass into the city until we had washed all our things. So it was considered best to set to and wash all our things immediately. So we set to and washed all afternoon". The next day was Sunday the 4th, they washed all day and expected to go Monday, but sickness broke out among the company. One sister died and grandmother was taken quite seriously ill and they were detained until the 11th when they were permitted to land. Uncle Thomas states that his sister, Elizabeth came down from Quincy and met them in St. Louis. They took passage on the Sevenorr for Quincy after a few hours stay in St. Louis. Uncle Thomas Rasband and Uncle George Giles had come to America a few years before. The former, it appears, had found employment in Quincy and the latter at Burlington, Iowa. They arrived in Quincy about 12 o'clock on the 11th. There Uncle Thomas found work and remained

for one year and eleven months. He left Quincy by boat for Burlington

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on the 12th of April 1856. At this place they got their outfits with which to cross the plains. Uncle Thomas mentions that his cow gave out and he had to replace it by trading it for a steer. He also mentions how bad the conditions of the roads were.

"On the 7th of May he states: "Roads not very good, only traveled about seven miles today. On the eighth the roads were so bad today we did very little traveling, got one wagon about six miles, moved brother Spratley about three miles, moved my wagon about one-half mile. So that when night came our little company of four wagons were in four different places. The distance between the first and the last one about five miles. He states that the Mr Johnson mentioned was traveling their way and asked the privilege of going with them. The other wagon was Uncle George Giles. Uncle Thomas gives quite a good account of their trip across Iowa in his writings. They had some trouble on account of the bad conditions of the roads. The father and mother seem to have made their way across Iowa some time during the twenty three months between landing in St. Louis and this time. They seem to have been in Council Bluffs in the spring of 1856. Father (John Crook) states he first met mother (Mary Giles) some time in the spring. Grandfather came from the Bluffs to meet Uncle Thomas and party with a team and two yoke of oxen. They reached there on the 11th of May. They crossed Missouri to Florence on the 28th. On the 5th of June they commenced their journey across the plains. The company consisted of twenty-six wagons at this time. More joined them on the 10th which made a company of sixty-four wagons.

On the 24th their cattle stampeded and they lost sixteen head. They later recovered ten of them and got under way again on the 27th.

On the 16th of July Uncle Thomas writes that he was sick and his brother John drove his team. He writes no more until after they arrived in Salt Lake on Saturday August 10th. They remained in Salt Lake a few days

and then started for Provo where they arrived on the 20th. The journey across the plains with its hardships and exposures, the change of climate and conditions generally seemed to be too much for grandmother. She died on September 5th, 1857, and was buried in the cemetery there. The children all married, Fred being the last, so he went to the Endowment House about the same time as his father.

Grandfather was married in the old Endowment House on the 12th of November 1859~~2~~²⁹ to Mary Day (born Aug. 6, 1794) They made their home in Provo as did most of the children. They all came to Heber in 1859-60 but John, who remained in Provo. Grandfather passed the remainder of his days here in peace among his children. His wife died December 5, 1874. He lived but 10 days longer, dying on the 15th. They are buried side by side in the Heber cemetery, one stone marking both their graves. Grandfather was a thorough Latter-day Saint and was devoted to his family and religion. His wisdom and good judgement is shown in keeping his family together until he got to Zion or Utah, and even in having them locate in this valley.

He managed to get George and Thomas Rasband to this country before the rest of the family came. My father (John Crook) met them in Council Bluffs and wished to marry Mary, one of the girls but grandfather advised them to wait until they got to Utah, as he wished to keep the family together until the end of the journey. He always attended strictly to his church duties and did not wish the tea and coffee placed on the table until the blessing was asked.

Grandfather and the children treated his second wife with the greatest respect, as much as their mother, most of the grandchildren never knew but that she was their grandmother. Aunt Christy says, "Grandmother was about the same build as my mother (Mary Crook) but looked more like Aunt Betsy (Elizabeth Rasband). Grandfather was much

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List of family members

like Uncle William Giles more than the others. In looks Uncle Thom
as favored him very much. Grandfather, with most of his sons, came
to this valley in the spring of 1860. Uncle William married after
he came here. Grandfather lived where Orson Roberts now lives (Or
lived at the time of writing.). Uncle George and Fred took up the
north two lots of the block. When Grandfather died Uncle Fred got his
his house and lot. He afterwards let John Roberts have part of the
lot. Uncle John Giles came to the valley with the 1st company.
He took up the first two 20 acre pieces of land in the field. One
on each side of the main road. One for himself and one for Uncle
Thomas. Afterwards Uncle Thomas got the 20 on the east side of the
road and Uncle John the one on the west side. Grandfather used
Uncle John's until his death, then it became Uncle John's. The latter
part of grandfather's life his grandsons put in the grain and did
much of the farm work. Us boys used to go through his grass to get
to Spring Creek to bathe. He would get after us and said he would
charge all of us 50 cents that he caught in the creek. The favor-
ite hole we used to go in became known as the 50 cent hole.

Soon after he came to Heber he got a horse team, about the only
one here then. They were named Kate and Nell.